

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

*Granting pensions and medals to Indians of the Standing Rock Agency.*

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APRIL 22, 1892.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

*Washington, April 21, 1892.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, with request for favorable action by Congress, copy of a communication of 12th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to the granting of pensions and medals to certain Indians of the Standing Rock Agency, together with copies of correspondence relating thereto, and drafts of bills to carry the same into effect.

Inasmuch as the Indian policemen, for whose benefit legislation is asked, were at the time a part of the military force under immediate command of Gen. Ruger and Col. Drum, and their service was demanded and directed solely in accordance with orders of the military authority, which, by special order of the President, had control of this and other military movements, due deference should be paid to the commendation of these officers.

The killing of Sitting Bull was neither demanded nor directed by the Department of the Interior or under its direction.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

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A BILL for the relief of the families of certain Indian policemen who were killed during the engagement at Sitting Bull's camp, on Grand River, December 15, 1890, and for the relief of Alexander Middle, who was wounded in said engagement.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension rolls, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the names of the following Indians, and pay each of them a pension at the rate of fifteen dollars per month from the date of the passage of this act, namely:

Mary Bullhead, widow of Henry Bullhead, late lieutenant United States Indian police, Standing Rock Agency, North Dakota.

Annie Shavehead, widow of Charles Shavehead, late sergeant United States Indian police, Standing Rock Agency, North Dakota.

Shell Pipe (Mrs. James Littleeagle), widow of James Littleeagle, late sergeant United States Indian police, Standing Rock Agency, North Dakota.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension rolls, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the names of the following Indians, and pay each of them a pension at the rate of ten dollars per month from the date of the passage of this act, namely:

Catherine Akicitch, widow of Paul Akicitch, late private United States Indian police, Standing Rock Agency, North Dakota.

Red Deer (Mrs. Hawkman), widow of Hawkman number one, late private United States Indian police, Standing Rock Agency, North Dakota.

Edward Armstrong, son of John Armstrong, deceased, late private United States Indian police, Standing Rock Agency, North Dakota.

Alexander Middle, who was employed as a United States Indian police at the Standing Rock Agency during the engagement at Sitting Bull's camp, on Grand River, December fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety, and who subsequently had his left leg amputated by reason of a wound received during said engagement.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, April 12, 1892.*

SIR: Under date of March 3, 1891, James McLaughlin, esq., United States Indian agent at the Standing Rock Agency, N. Dak., transmitted to this office a list showing the names of the United States Indian police of Standing Rock Agency constituting the force which arrested "Sitting Bull" at his camp on Grand River, 40 miles southwest of Standing Rock Agency, on the morning of December 15, 1890, and suggested that a pension of at least \$15 per month be given the families of Lieut. Henry Bullhead, Serpts. Charles Shavehead and James Littleeagle, and \$10 per month to the families of Privates Paul Akicitch, Hawkman No. 1, and John Armstrong, who were killed in the engagement, and to Alexander Middle, who was severely wounded and who has since had his left leg amputated at the knee joint as a result of said wound; also that each of the thirty-three policemen and four volunteers, survivors of the engagement, receive a medal commemorative of their fidelity. Said agent also transmitted extracts from his report on this engagement for the information of this office.

Under date of January 15, 1891, this office received, by Department reference, a communication from the honorable Secretary of War concurring in the views of Gen. Thomas H. Ruger, commanding Department of Dakota, wherein the general states that the conduct of the Standing Rock police was remarkable for fidelity as well as courage, and that some act of the Government in recognition thereof would seem fit as to those directly concerned and expedient for the encouraging effect it would have upon all the Indians of the reservation who desire to conform to the new condition of their lives.

Under date of March 5, 1892, at the request of this office, said agent furnished this office with the names of the surviving widows and children of the Indian police who were killed in the engagement at Sitting Bull's camp on Grand River.

Believing that the families of these Indian policemen who were killed in said engagement, and Alexander Middle, who was wounded in said engagement (and who has since had his left leg amputated as a result of said wound), should receive pensions, and also believing that the survivors (thirty-seven in number) of said engagement should each receive a medal as a proper recognition of their fidelity to the Government, I

have caused to be prepared and inclosed herewith, for the consideration of the Department, copies of all the correspondence herein referred to, together with two drafts of bills, one providing for the granting of pensions to the families of the above-named Indians and to Alexander Middle, the other providing for the granting of medals to the survivors of the engagement, with the recommendation that same be transmitted to Congress with a view to securing proper legislation in the premises.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN,  
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

A BILL granting medals to certain Indian policemen of the Standing Rock Agency, North Dakota.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the sum of five hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and hereby is appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to enable the Secretary of the Interior to provide suitable medals of honor for the following named United States Indian policeman of the Standing Rock Agency, North Dakota, survivors of the engagement which took place at Sitting Bull's camp on Grand River, on December fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety, viz:

Marcellus Chankpidutah (Red Tomahawk), second sergeant.  
John Wambdi (Eagle Man), fifth sergeant.  
Thomas Tunkah (Stone Man), private.  
Louis Wahpahah (Hat), private.  
Hugh Chetahohonko (Swift Hawk), private.  
Luke Ptash (White Buffalo), private.  
Alexander Hochokah (Middle), private.  
Eugene Akichitahchigala (Little Soldier), private.  
Joseph Brown Wolf (Brown Wolf), private.  
Paul Hautaymaza (Iron Cedar), private.  
John Ishnawichah (Lone Man), private.  
Oliver Hehakawaketo (Looking Elk), private.  
Dennis Wahpahaichu (Take the Hat), private.  
George Iron Star (Iron Star), private.  
Richard Runninghawk (Running Hawk), private.  
Afraid of Hawk, special policeman.

White Bird, special policeman.  
Magpie Eagle, special policeman.  
Iron Thunder, special policeman.  
Paints Brown, special policeman.  
Weasel Bear, special policeman.  
Rooster, special policeman.  
High Eagle, special policeman.  
Good Voiced Eagle, special policeman.  
Red Bear, special policeman.  
Bad Horse, special policeman.  
Cross Bear, special policeman.  
Black Pheasant, special policeman.  
One Feather, special policeman.  
Walking Shooter, special policeman.  
Good Voiced Elk, special policeman.  
Cetanwicaste, (Hawkman No. 2) special policeman.  
Brown Man, special policeman.  
Gabriel Waublihotia (Gray Eagle) volunteer.  
Otter Robe, volunteer.  
Spotted Thunder, volunteer.  
Young Eagle, volunteer.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, December 30, 1890.

To JAMES McLAUGHLIN,

U. S. Indian Agent, Standing Rock Agency, N. Dak.:

Send me report immediately stating exactly order given for Indian police to go to Sitting Bull's camp to arrest him, from whom received and when, and all tending to show origin of order, its nature, the superintendence of its execution, the taking of the body of Sitting Bull, and what disposition was made of it.

JNO. W. NOBLE,  
Secretary.

[Telegram.]

FORT YATES, N. DAK., *December 30, 1890.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C.:*

The division commander's order received on the 12th instant by telegram to the post commander at Fort Yates, directs the latter to "make it his especial duty to secure the person of Sitting Bull and call on the Indian agent to coöperate and render such assistance as would best promote the purpose in view."

After the receipt of this telegram a consultation was held between the post commander and myself, when it was decided that the arrest be made on the twentieth (20th) instant when most of the Indians of Sitting Bull's camp would be absent from there receiving their rations at agency. Information reached me on the evening of 14th that Sitting Bull was preparing to leave the reservation, which I reported to the post commander, who ordered the arrest made at once, and it was arranged to send the police to the camp for that purpose, and for the troops to leave the post and reach their destination in time to prevent a rescue. Under my instructions to coöperate with the military, and in pursuance of the arrangement between the post commander and myself, I issued the order to the police. My action was governed by previous telegraphic instructions of December 1 and 5 from the Indian Office directing me to coöperate with the military.

Full details with copies of orders and instructions have heretofore been forwarded to Indian Office, but I will send copies if required as soon as they can be prepared. The body of Sitting Bull was brought to this agency by the troops and is buried in the Fort Yates military cemetery.

JAMES McLAUGHLIN,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

[P. B. Night. Collect.]

The above telegram was delivered to the operator but had not been sent when the telegram of which a copy is given below was received. Copy by mail was sent and the original returned to the agency.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, *December 30, 1890.*

TO JAMES McLAUGHLIN,  
*United States Indian Agent, Fort Yates, N. Dak.:*

Your report has been received which renders it unnecessary for you to reply further to telegram of this morning.

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE, STANDING ROCK AGENCY,  
*Fort Yates, N. Dak., January 23, 1891.*

Hon. T. J. MORGAN,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.:*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of January 12, 1891, L. 26, 1891, in which, referring to my report of December 24, 1890, it is stated that the authority under which I coöperated and the Indian police acted in the matter of the capture and killing of Sitting Bull on the 15th of December last is not directly stated and specifically set out, and calling for further report in this particular.

I invite a perusal of the concluding paragraph of my report of December 16, in which I state that copies of telegrams showing the authority under which the Indian police were engaged in the arrest of Sitting Bull were inclosed. These copies consist as follows:

(1) Office telegram of December 1, in which the following order appears: "You will, as to the operations intended to suppress any outbreak by force, coöperate with and obey the orders of the military officers commanding on the reservation in your charge."

(2) Office telegram of December 5, 1890, states: "Replying to your telegram

of this date Secretary directs that you make no arrests whatever, except under orders of the military or upon an order of the Secretary of the Interior."

(3) Telegram dated December 12, 1890, from Gen. Ruger, commanding the Military Department of Dakota, to Col. W. F. Drum, commanding officer Fort Yates, which is in the following words: "The division commander has directed that you make it your especial duty to secure the person of Sitting Bull. Call on Indian agent to coöperate and render such assistance as will best promote the purpose in view."

\* \* \* \* \*

Upon receipt of the letter written for Bull Head by John M. Carrignan, teacher of the Grand River day school, dated December 14, 1890, 12:30 a. m., a copy of which was furnished with my report of December 16, 1890, Lieut. Col. W. F. Drum, U. S. Army, commanding Fort Yates, ordered the arrest, and acting under previous instructions to coöperate, I issued the orders to the Indian police directing them to proceed to Sitting Bull's camp and make the arrest the following morning and bring him in towards the agency until they met the troops to which command they were to deliver the prisoner or, escorted by the military, bring him through to the post of Fort Yates as might be determined by the officer commanding the detachment of troops. The orders to the police referred to above is in the following words:

[Translation from the Sioux.]

STANDING ROCK AGENCY, N. DAK.,

*December 14, 1890.*

#### AFRAID OF BEAR AND SHAVE HEAD:

I am in receipt of the letter you sent by courier Hawkman, and I have come to the conclusion that the time has come to arrest Sitting Bull. I am afraid that if we should put it off any longer that he will get away from us, so to-night you will proceed to his house and arrest him before daybreak. Louie will lead the troops down on the road you suggested to Oak Creek crossing and stop there. I mean the Sitting Bull and Spotted Horn Bull crossing of Oak Creek, where I told you to build the station, and they will await you there. If anything should happen you will bring the news to the troops immediately.

I am your agent who says this.

JAMES McLAUGHLIN.

("Afraid of Bear" is the same person referred to in the affair as Bull Head, and the letter referred to as sent by courier is the one written for Bull Head and signed by John M. Carrignan, hereinbefore referred to.)

All preliminary orders given by me to the police were verbal, as well as the orders from Col. Drum to me. The plan of the arrest, together with the disposition of the police and troops, was decided upon in consultation, both of us concurring after a joint careful study of the situation.

I do not see that I can further improve my reports of December 16 and 24 so as to make more clear the nature of the orders under which I and the police acted in this matter. It was in coöperation with the military, who had determined upon the arrest of Sitting Bull, and in pursuance of Col. Drum's direct verbal orders, that I gave all final orders to the police, who were in this case what may be termed concomitants of the military.

I invite attention to that part of my report of December 24, commencing at page 6, which details all the preparations made for the final arrest; that these preparations were made, as far as I was concerned, with the full knowledge and by previous arrangement with the post commander and under his instructions.

I submit inclosed copies of correspondence with the honorable Secretary of the Interior for the information of the honorable Commissioner.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES McLAUGHLIN,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*St. Paul, Minn., January 1, 1891.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith a letter received from United States Indian Agent James McLaughlin, of Standing Rock Agency, in reply to a letter from me, in which I stated that I should be glad to do what I might to present for consideration the question of reward for the Indian police taking part in the

arrest of Sitting Bull and resisting the attack made on them by his followers in an attempt for his rescue, and also that of provision for the families of the policemen who were killed.

The conduct of these policemen is remarkable for fidelity as well as courage, and some act of the Government in recognition thereof would seem fit as to those directly concerned, and expedient for the encouraging effect it would have upon all the Indians of the reservation who desire to conform to the new condition of their lives.

I make no suggestion as to what action would be advisable in a matter which pertains especially to the Interior Department, my object being principally to add official expression of opinion, in concurrence with that of the commanding officer of Fort Yates, relative to the matter presented.

The list of the policemen who were killed or died of wounds has, as I understand, been reported by the Indian agent, with all the facts, to the Interior Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. H. RUGER  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,  
*Washington, D. C.*  
(Through Headquarters Division of the Missouri.)

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 13, 1891.*

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of the Interior for his information, and concurring in the views of Gen. Ruger.

REDFIELD PROCTOR,  
*Secretary of War.*

Referred to Commissioner of Indian Affairs for his consideration and an expression of his views.

J. W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

JANUARY 15, 1891.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE, STANDING ROCK AGENCY,  
*Fort Yates, N. Dak., Agency, December 22, 1890.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, by which you kindly offer to unite in promoting any recommendation for suitable reward to the survivors of the police force in the Grand River fight on the 15th instant, and for provision for the families of the killed. I am very glad to receive this offer, as it shows that the service rendered by the police is recognized by the department commander and that he considers a reward merited. I shall feel grateful for any suggestions which may assist in promoting the object in question.

I have already represented the matter to the Indian Office, with a request that the coöperation of the War Department be secured. I have also furnished to Senator G. A. Pierce, of North Dakota, a full account of the affair (with a copy of the department commander's letter of the 17th instant), with a view to obtaining his action in presenting and supporting a bill in Congress. In the mean time I shall be glad to receive your support in what has already been done by any special representation to the War Department or otherwise, as may be deemed best, and to act upon any suggestion which you think advisable to make, and also to furnish any information that may be needed and in my power to furnish which is not already in the hands of the military authorities.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES McLAUGHLIN,  
*United States Indian Agent.* □

Gen. T. H. RUGER,  
*Commanding the Department of Dakota, St. Paul, Minn.*

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, January 5, 1891.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

E. L. HUGGINS,  
*Captain Second Cavalry, A. D. C.,*  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General*  
(In the absence of the division commander).

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Standing Rock Agency, March 3, 1891.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith papers, which as the indorsements indicate, were intended to be handed to United States Senator Pierce of North Dakota for the purpose stated in the indorsements, but owing to the adverse criticisms of the press of the country which was ignorant of the facts, the papers were withheld and not given to Senator Pierce at the time, and since his defeat for reelection as Senator and it being so near the end of the session of which he is a member it was considered useless to do so; I therefore send them to the Department where they may be of some assistance in obtaining relief for the Indian police.

I would respectfully suggest that a pension of at least \$15 per month be given the families of Lieut. Henry Bullhead, and Sergts. Charles Shavehead, and James Littleeagle; and \$10 per month of Privates Paul Akicitch, Hawkman No. 1, and John Armstrong, who were killed in the engagement, and to Alexander Middle, who was severely wounded, and who will probably yet lose his foot, as he is still confined in the hospital and recovery very doubtful; also that each of the thirty-three policemen, and four volunteers, survivors of the engagement, receive a medal commemorative of their fidelity, and payment at the rate of \$50 per head for ponies they had killed and those that stampeded during the fight which latter were subsequently picked up and taken off by the Indians opposed to them who fled from the reservation at that time.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES McLAUGHLIN,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. T. J. MORGAN,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

*Names of the United States Indian police of Standing Rock Agency, N. Dak., constituting the force which arrested "Sitting Bull" at his camp on Grand River, 40 miles southwest of Standing Rock Agency, on the morning of December 15, 1890. (All are full-blood Sioux Indians.)*

## ROLL OF HONOR.

Henry Tataukapah* (Bull Head), first lieutenant.	George Ironstar (Iron Star), private.
Charles Kashlah* (Shave Head), first sergeant.	Richard Runninghawk (Running Hawk), private.
Marcelus Chaukipidutah* (Red Tomahawk), second sergeant.	Afraid of Hawk, special police.
James Wambdichigalah* (Little Eagle), fourth sergeant.	White Bird, special police.
John Wambdi (Eagle Man), fifth sergeant.	Hawk Man No. 1,* special police.
Thomas Tunkah (Stone Man), private.	Magpie Eagle, special police.
Louis Wahpahah (Hat), private.	Iron Thunder, special police.
Hugh Chetahohonko (Swift Hawk), private.	Paints Brown, special police.
Paul Akicitch* (Afraid of Soldier), private.	Weasel Bear, special police.
Luke Ptasah (White Buffalo), private.	Rooster, special police.
Alexander Hochokah† (Middle) private.	High Eagle, special police.
Eugene Akichitahchigala (Little Soldier), private.	Goodvoiced Eagle, special police.
Joseph Brown Wolf (Brown Wolf), private.	Red Bear, special police.
Paul Hantamaza (Iron Cedar), private.	Bad Horse, special police.
John Ishnawichah (Lone Man), private.	Cross Bear, special police.
Oliver Hehakawaketó (Looking Elk), private.	Black Pheasant, special police.
Dennis Wahpahaichu (Take the Hat), private.	John Armstrong,* special police.
	One Feather, special police.
	Walking Shooter, special police.
	Good Voiced Elk, special police.
	Cetanwicaste (Hawk Man No. 2), special police.
	Brown Man, special police.
	Gabriel Wanblihota (Gray Eagle), volunteer.
	Otter Robe, volunteer.
	Spotted Thunder, volunteer.
	Young Eagle, volunteer.

\* Dead.

† Wounded.

A total of 43 imperfectly armed police opposed to about 160 Indians of Sitting Bull's followers whom they routed, driving them from the field and into the adjoining woods, holding the battle ground with all the killed and surviving women and children, also Sitting Bull's corral which was filled with horses prepared for his flight and which the ghost dancers made extraordinary efforts to secure, but it was held by the police with great courage and coolness. After having been fighting for about two hours and securing possession of all the buildings near by and the attacking Indians being driven from the field at all points they (the police) carried their dead and wounded into Sitting Bull's house and maintained their organization splendidly.

When the detachment of the Eighth U. S. Cavalry came in sight on the hill overlooking Sitting Bull's camp, about 1,500 yards distant, the police raised a white flag from the corral to show where they were, but notwithstanding this a shell was thrown from a Hotchkiss gun which struck and exploded a few rods from them upon which Red Tomahawk paraded his men to show who they were but their identity could not be established by the officers from that distance and the latter believing them to be hostiles caused another shell to be thrown which exploded about 4 rods from the police whereupon Red Tomahawk mounted a horse and taking a white flag rode out to the command to save further mistake, and when Lieut. S. A. Slocum, commanding F Troop, Eighth Cavalry, arrived on the ground Sergt. John Engleman, then in charge, paraded the policemen, aligning them directly in front of the dead, advanced to the front of his column and saluted on the approach of the command.

There were 1 lieutenant and 4 sergeants of the police force in the engagement, and at the first fire Lieut. Bull Head and First Sergt. Shave Head were severely wounded and Fourth Sergt. Little Eagle killed. Red Tomahawk, second sergeant, then assumed command, which he conducted with great skill and courage throughout the remainder of the fight. He was ably assisted by Fifth Sergt. Eagle Man, who remained near him, and by Gray Eagle, a volunteer, who took charge of the party, holding the corral, filled with horses belonging to the Sitting Bull Indians. In a word, every man did his duty unflinchingly, entitling them to some especial recognition for their great services, as this battle, upholding the authority of the Government, should go down to history as one of the most remarkable on record, showing the fidelity and loyalty of the Indian police in obeying orders and maintaining the integrity of the Government against their own people, some of them having fathers and brothers in the ranks opposing them.

The police had no men to spare to hold their horses, and being all obliged to dismount to be of the most service, and their horses being left untied, ten of them, with saddles, were taken by the Sitting Bull Indians and four horses were killed during the fight. The police also took off their overcoats, so as to be better prepared for what might arrive, and left them, with their blankets, tied to the saddles taken by the hostiles. All these articles and horses being taken are lost to the police.

JAMES McLAUGHLIN,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

STANDING ROCK AGENCY, N. DAK., *December 20, 1890.*

NOTE.—Horses, saddles, bridles, blankets, and overcoats were private property of police.

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*Extracts from the report of James McLaughlin, United States Indian agent on the engagement of the morning of the 15th December, 1890, between the Indian police of the Standing Rock Agency and hostile Indians at Grand River, N. Dak., upon the occasion of the arrest of Sitting Bull by the Agency police.*

[Telegram.]

FORT YATES, N. DAK., *December 15, 1890.*

COMMISSIONER INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.:*

Indian police arrested Sitting Bull at his camp 40 miles southwest of agency this morning at daylight. His followers attempted his rescue and fighting commenced. Four policemen killed and three wounded. Eight Indians killed, including Sitting Bull and his son Crow Foot, and several others wounded. Police

were surrounded for some time but maintained their ground until relieved by United States troops, who now have possession of Sitting Bull's camp and all women, children, and property. Sitting Bull's followers, probably 100 men, deserted their families and fled west up Grand River. Police behaved nobly, and great credit is due them. Particulars by mail.

McLAUGHLIN,  
Agent.

STANDING ROCK AGENCY, N. DAK., December 16, 1890.

SIR: The troops left Fort Yates at 12 p. m. on the night of Sunday the 14th instant, for Grand River with Louis Prineau as guide, and my Indian police, who were then at Grand River or en route, were instructed to arrest Sitting Bull when the troops were sufficiently near to afford them protection in case of resistance to the arrest.

At daybreak on Monday morning, the 15th, the police\* went to Sitting Bull's camp, direct to his house, and surrounded it. A detail was sent into the house, where Sitting Bull was sleeping on the floor, the remainder staying outside. They aroused him and announced their purpose, at the same time raising him to a sitting position. He at first seemed inclined to offer no resistance and they allowed him to dress during which time he changed his mind and they took him forcibly from the house.† By this time the police were surrounded by Sitting Bull's followers, members of the "ghost dance," and the first shot was fired by Catch the Bear, one of the hostiles, and the lieutenant of police, Henry Tataukapah (Bull Head), who was in command of the detachment of 42‡ men, was struck. The fighting then became general; in fact, it was a hand-to-hand fight. Sitting Bull was killed, shot through the body and head in the early part of the fight by Bull Head and Marcellus Chankipidutah (Red Tomahawk) who each shot at him. Four policemen were killed outright and three wounded, one of the latter dying at the agency hospital this morning after his removal there. Bull Head, the lieutenant of police, is dangerously wounded, but may recover.

The hostile Indians lost eight killed and several wounded and were driven from the field by the police; they fled up Grand River, leaving their wives and families and all their property and dead behind them. Two troops of the Eighth United States Cavalry (100 men) arrived on the ground immediately after the fight,‡ which had occupied less than half an hour, and took possession of the camp, its inhabitants, property, and dead. The military did not pursue the fleeing hostiles, and the latter will no doubt fall into the hands of some one of the commands moving at the different points west or south of the agency.

\* \* \* \* \*

The details of the battle show that the Indian police behaved nobly and exhibited the best of judgment and bravery, and a recognition by the Government for their services on this occasion is richly deserved, and should be promptly given, with a substantial allowance for the families of those who are dead and also for the survivors, to show that the Government recognizes the great service that has been done for the country in the result of yesterday's fight.

I respectfully urge that the Interior Department cooperate with the War Department in obtaining Congressional action which will insure to these brave survivors and to the families of the dead a full and generous reward. Besides the Indian police there were four volunteers, viz: "Gray Eagle," "Spotted Thunder," "Otter Robe," and "Young Eagle," who participated in the fight, rendering good service and deserving like recognition. "Gray Eagle" (Gabriel Wanblihotah) is one of the judges of the court of Indian offenses, and his two sisters are Sitting Bull's wives. Until about seventeen months ago he was Sitting Bull's main support.

CASUALTIES IN THE POLICE FORCE.

Henry Tataukapah (Bull Head) first lieutenant in command, dangerously wounded, four wounds. (Since dead.)

Charles Kashlah (Shave Head), first sergeant, mortally wounded. (Since dead.)

\*Number of regular Indian police, 19; special police (Indians), 20; volunteer Indians, 4; total engaged in arrest, 43.

†See Capt. Fechét's report, extract attached.

‡Three of the number had been sent to some other point on special duty, reducing this number to 39.

§The troops, it has been ascertained, did not arrive until two hours after the commencement of the fight, showing that the police held their position.

James Wambdichigalah (Little Eagle), fourth sergeant, killed.  
 Alexander Hochokah (Middle), private, painfully wounded.  
 Paul Akichitah (Afraid of Soldier), private, killed.  
 John Armstrong, special police, killed.  
 Hawk Man No. 1, special police, killed.

\* \* \* \* \*

A large majority of the Indians of this agency are loyal to the Government, and universal satisfaction is expressed by them as it ends the ghost craze here.

While this conflict, causing the loss of some of our best (noble and brave) policemen, is to be very much regretted, yet the great good accomplished by the ending of Sitting Bull's career, whose influence has been of such a retarding nature, and the determination the police manifested in maintaining the will of the Government is most gratifying. \* \* \*

I am, etc.,

JAMES McLAUGHLIN,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon T. J. MORGAN,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

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*Extracts from the report of Capt. E. G. Fechet, Eighth Cavalry, commanding the detachment of cavalry sent to Grand River on the morning of December 15, 1890, to aid Indian police in case of resistance in the arrest of Sitting Bull:*

FORT YATES, N. DAK., December 17, 1890.

SIR: \* \* \* The command moved out at midnight the 14th, and by rapid marching was, by daylight, within 3 miles of Sitting Bull's camp, which is fully from 41 to 42 miles from Fort Yates. After daybreak I expected every minute to meet the Indian police with Sitting Bull their prisoner, it having been arranged by Maj. McLaughlin, Indian Agent, that they would make a descent upon Bull's camp about daybreak, arresting Bull and delivering him to me for conduct to the post. It will be seen by reference to the first paragraph of the order referred to that the command was to proceed only to the crossing of Oak Creek, which was 18 miles from Sitting Bull's camp. After receiving this order, on consultation with Col. Drum, commanding the post, it was decided to move as close to Bull's camp as possible without discovery and there await the police. A short time after dawn a mounted man was discovered approaching rapidly. This proved to be one of the police, who reported that all the other police had been killed. The substance of his report, with additional statement that I would move in rapidly and endeavor to relieve any of the police who might be alive, I forwarded to the commanding officer.

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The command was moved with all possible speed to a point on the high lands overlooking the valley of Grand River and immediately opposite Sitting Bull's house and the camp of the ghost dancers distant some 1,500 yards.

\* \* \* \* \*

Upon arriving at this place\* I found evidences of a most desperate encounter between the agency police and Sitting Bull's followers. In the vicinity of the house, within a radius of 50 yards, there were found the dead bodies of eight hostiles, including Sitting Bull; two horses were also killed. Within the house there were found four dead and three wounded policemen.† It was learned through the interpreter that the hostiles had carried away with them one of their dead and five or six of their wounded, making an approximate total of fifteen casualties.

From the best evidence obtainable I am led to believe that the Indian police under the command of Bull Head and Shave Head, about fifty‡ strong, entered Sitting Bull's camp about 5:30 a. m. on the 15th for the purpose of making the arrest of Sitting Bull. Sitting Bull was taken from his house, and while the police were parleying with him, endeavoring to induce him to submit peacefully, Bull Head was shot by Catch the Bear in the leg.

Bull Head immediately shot and killed Sitting Bull, when the mêlée became general, with the results given. The fight lasted but a few moments, when the

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\* Sitting Bull's house.

† These had been taken inside by their brother policemen.

‡ Thirty-nine police; four volunteers.

police secured the house and stable adjoining, driving Sitting Bull's men from the village to cover in the adjoining wood and hills. From these positions the fight was kept up until about 7:30 a. m., when the troops came up. I learn that soon after the occupation of the house and stable by the police, volunteers were called for to carry a report of the situation back to the approaching troops. Hawk Man offered to perform this perilous service, and at the imminent risk of his life, assisted by Red Tomahawk, he effected his escape, being shot through his coat and gloves while engaged in the attempt. This was the first scout met by the command.

\* \* \* \* \*

I can not too strongly commend the splendid courage and ability which characterized the conduct of the Indian police commanded by Bull Head and Shave Head throughout the encounter. The attempt to arrest Sitting Bull was so managed as to place the responsibility for the fight that ensued upon Sitting Bull's band, which began the firing. Red Tomahawk assumed the command of the police after both Bull Head and Shave Head had been wounded, and it was he who, under circumstances requiring personal courage to the highest degree, assisted Hawk Man to escape with a message to the troops.

After the fight no demoralization seemed to exist among them and they were ready and willing to coöperate with the troops to any extent desired.

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E. G. FECHET,

*Captain Eighth Cavalry, Commanding.*

The POST ADJUTANT.

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#### HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,

*St. Paul, Minn., December 17, 1890.*

SIR: Referring to telegram of this date from the commanding officer Fort Yates, recommending that some recognition and reward should be bestowed on your Indian police for their fidelity and bearing in the arrest of Sitting Bull and the consequent encounter with his followers, it will give me pleasure to unite with you in promoting any recommendation you may make for suitable reward to those who are entitled, and provision for the families of those who were killed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. H. RUGER,

*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. JAMES McLAUGHLIN,

*United States Indian Agent.*

(Through commanding officer Fort Yates, N. Dak.)

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#### UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

*Standing Rock Agency, March 5, 1892.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of office letter of February 26, 1892 (Land 1931, 3383, 3391, 9189, 9191), calling for the names of the surviving widows, mothers, or dependent minor children of the Indian police who were killed in the engagement at Sitting Bull's camp on Grand River, December 15, 1890, etc.

In reply I respectfully invite attention to the following list:

Name and rank of policemen killed.	Names of surviving widows, mothers, or dependent minor children of the deceased.	Age.	Relationship to deceased.
Henry Bullhead, lieutenant .....	Mary Bullhead .....	41	Widow.
	Ada Bullhead .....	9	Daughter.
	John Bullhead .....	4	Son.
	Peter Bullhead .....	69	Father.
Chas. Shavehead, sergeant .....	Mary Bullhead .....	67	Mother.
	Annie Shavehead .....	42	Widow.
	Jerome Shavehead .....	16	Son.
	Frances Shavehead .....	14	Daughter.
	Benedict Shavehead .....	10	Son.
	Mary Shavehead .....	9	Daughter.
	Joseph Shavehead .....	6	Son.
James Littleeagle, sergeant .....	Henry Shavehead .....	1	Do.
	Shell Pipe (Mrs. James Littleeagle) .....	49	Widow.
Paul Akicitch, private .....	Henry Littleeagle .....	16	Son.
	Catherine Akicitch .....	56	Widow.
	Alfred Akicitch .....	9	Son.
Hawkman No. 1, private .....	Lucy Tinza (married) .....	25	Daughter.
	Red Deer (Mrs. Hawkman) .....	30	Widow.
	Lena Hawkman .....	12	Daughter.
John Armstrong, private .....	Anna Hawkman .....	10	Do.
	Edward Armstrong .....	10	Son.

Alexander Middle, who was wounded by a shot in the left foot in the same engagement, has lately had his left leg amputated at the knee joint, resulting from the wound. He certainly should be pensioned, as he has a wife and two adopted children, aged 15 and 7, respectively, dependent upon him.

The medals, as recommended in my letter of March 3, 1891, will have an excellent effect, and I strongly urge that they be furnished for the full number of forty-three participants in the engagement, those for the dead to be given to their children.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES McLAUGHLIN,  
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. T. J. MORGAN,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.